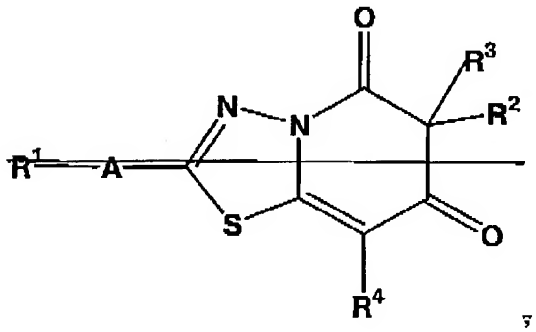
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

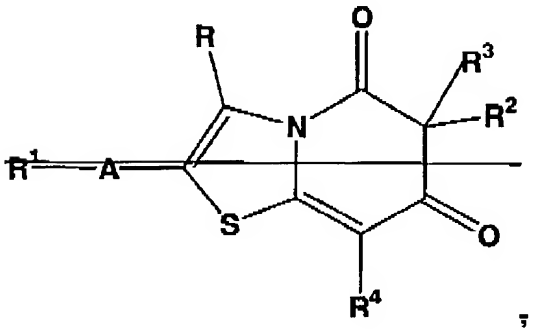
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

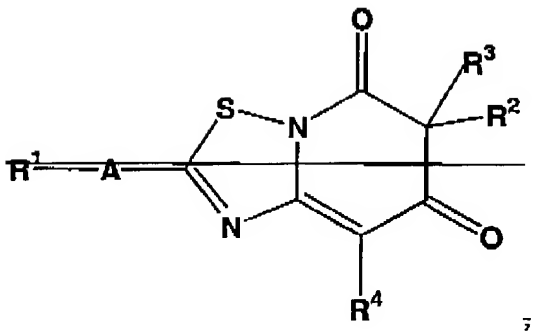
Listing of claims:

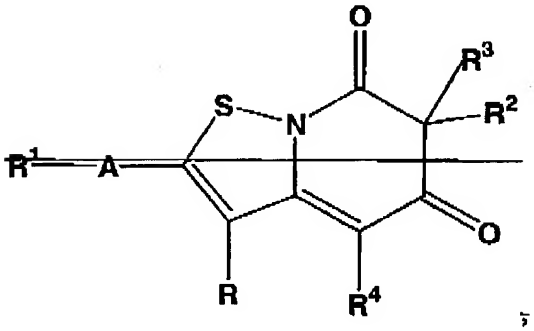
Claim 1 (canceled).

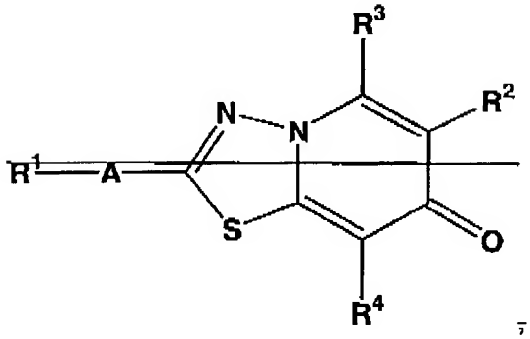
Claim 2 (currently amended). ~~The compound according to claim 1 selected from the group consisting of:~~ A compound of formula

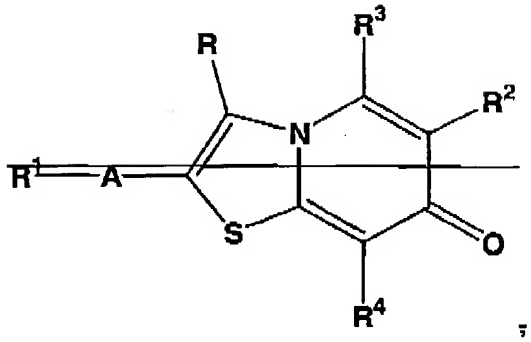


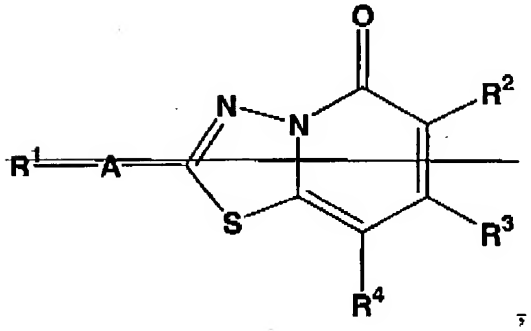


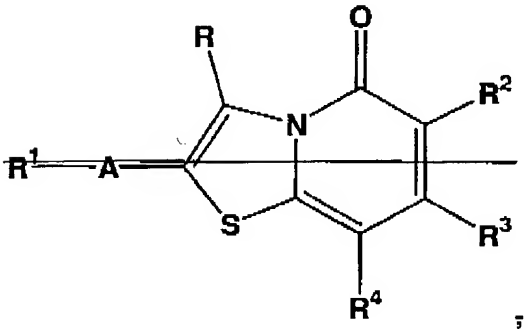


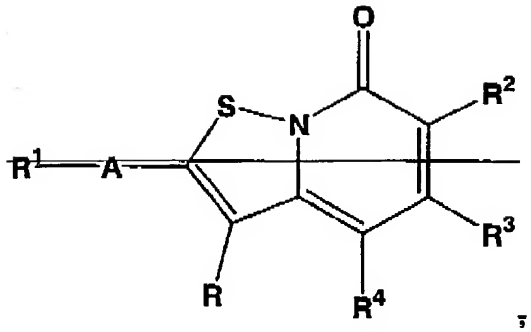












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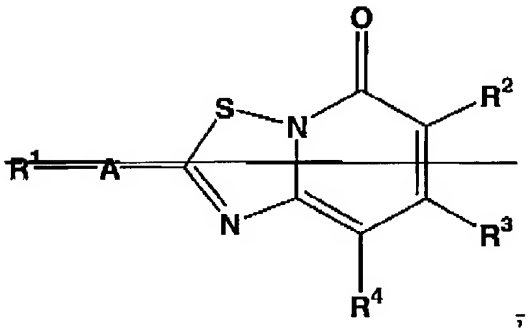

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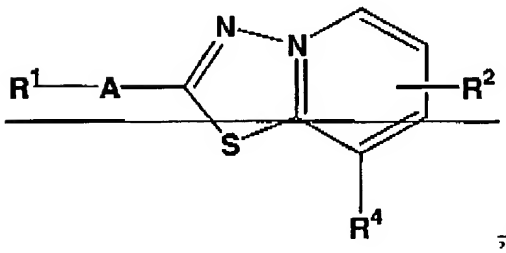
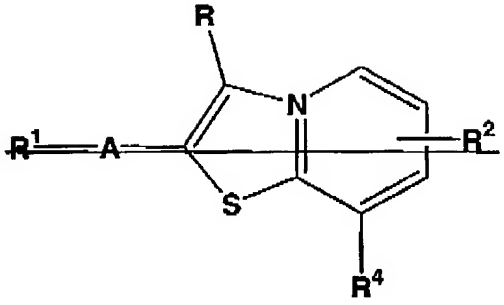
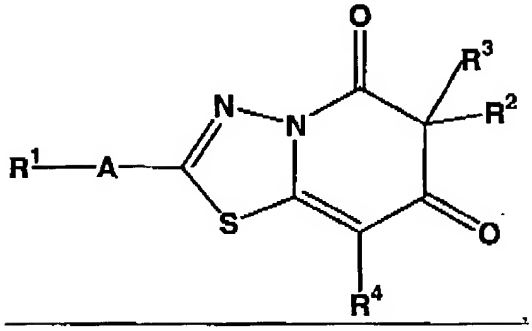


~~, and~~





wherein A is –NR(C=O);

wherein each R, R^1, R^2, and R^3 are the same or different, where ever they appear, and each is independently selected from the group consisting of (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-; wherein each of the aforesaid group members, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-

C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, may be optionally independently substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, -CN, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkoxy-, CF_3-, CF_3O-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, HO(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(O)(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)-, (C_1-C_4)alkyl-(C=O)(C_1-C_4)alkyl-, -(S=O)R, -(SO_2)R, and NR^7R^8 wherein R^7 and R^8 are independently selected from hydrogen, (C_1-C_6)alkyl;
wherein each R and R^3 may further independently be hydrogen;
R^4 is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and (C_1-C_6)alkyl-, and R^4 may be optionally substituted with one to three substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, hydroxy, -CN, CF_3-, and CF_3O-; or

a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 3 (currently amended). The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R^1 is selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

Claim 4 (currently amended). The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein R^2 is selected from (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkenyl-, (C_3-C_{10})cycloalkyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_6-C_{10})aryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, (C_1-C_{10})heterocyclyl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-, and (C_1-C_{10})heteroaryl-(C_2-C_6)alkynyl-.

Claim 5 (currently amended). The compound according to any one of ~~Claims 1 to~~ 4 Claims 2 to 4, wherein R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from $(C_6\text{-}C_{10})$aryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl- and $(C_1\text{-}C_{10})$heteroaryl-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, wherein ~~R^3, R^4, R^5, and R^6~~ R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The compound according to ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2 selected from the group consisting of:

~~6-Benzyl-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(4-Fluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]thiadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-[1,3,4]oxadiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-oxazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide~~

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide, and

6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-6,7-dihydro-5H-thiazolo[3,2-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide,

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (2-methoxy-pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-5,7-dioxo-1,5,6,7-tetrahydro-indolizine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid (pyridin-4-ylmethyl)-amide~~

~~6-(3,4-Difluoro-benzyl)-8-methyl-7-oxo-1,7-dihydro-[1,2,4]triazolo[1,5-a]pyridine-2-carboxylic acid benzylamide,~~ or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 8 (currently amended). A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of a condition selected from the group consisting of connective tissue disorders, inflammatory disorders, immunology/allergy disorders, infectious diseases, respiratory diseases,

cardiovascular diseases, eye diseases, metabolic diseases, central nervous system (CNS) disorders, liver/kidney diseases, reproductive health disorders, gastric disorders, skin disorders and cancers in a mammal, including a human, comprising an amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, effective in such treatment and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 11 (original). The pharmaceutical composition according to Claim 8, comprising a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, admixed with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient, or diluent.

Claim 12 (currently amended). A method for treating arthritis, comprising administering to a patient suffering from an arthritis disease a nontoxic antiarthritic effective amount of a compound of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claim 13 (original). The method according to Claim 12, wherein the compound administered is a compound according to Claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.